



## **SGIC Meeting, September 28, 2023**

### **Attendees:**

Hannah Rechtschaffen, Chair  
George Touloumtzis, Co Chair, Planning board representative  
Nancy Hazard, public member  
Jonah Keane, public member  
Marlo Warner, Director of Public Works  
Eric Twarog, Planning Director  
Greta Shwachman, Greenfield Public Schools Food Service Director

Amy Cahillane, Economic Development Director  
Anna Oltman, Community Development Administrator

### **Absent:**

Mary Chicoine, public member  
Phil Elmer, City Council representative

Meeting called to order at 5:19 PM, once quorum was reached

Eric T. Presenting:

- Potential update by the Conway School of Design to a couple chapters
  - Winter project
    - Land Use and Econ Dev section addressed by students
      - Land Use could focus on housing
    - Parks, public spaces, open space
    - Mayor would like us to focus less on Energy
- Mayor likes the idea
  - Little to no cost to the City - up to \$26,000
    - Eric will clarify cost to the city
  - GSB might be able to float it/interested in floating it
- Students are Master Program - Landscape Architecture
- Amy C. Affirms their work is highly professional
- Would have a couple public forums involved with the project
- Jonah has experience doing a spring project with Conway School
- Students have worked with City before

- George asked about why the students are interested in a project like this?
  - Eric can get clarification on their interest, ability
  - The Fisk proposal from the school was included in the Master Plan
- Nancy believes Conway School worked with Bernardston on their Master Plan
- School has a sustainability orientation
- Public interface in part of what the students are learning - important that they hold that
  - Jonah - one public forum for his project was great, one was not
- Students will “meet with the client”, then come back with ideas
- Eric needs more clarification from CJ on the bounds of the project - seems like it is a higher cost
- Green infrastructure and resiliency has been on our minds a lot - would be good to have some work on that through this project
- Updates to the plan (if we did it ourselves)
  - Cost is high \$100k
  - Typically want to do an update every 10 years
  - Especially if there are significant changes and pressures
    - Climate change is the biggest thing on everyone’s mind
  - Hire consultants usually, or through a regional planning agency
    - Put out an RFP and hire someone to take a look at everything
    - VHB did our plan last time - we need help accessing the files
- Carole Collins has been working closely with FRCOG on a Municipal Net Zero Plan for Greenfield, will be released soon - includes an implementation plan
- What would it look like to focus on resilience across the Master Plan
- George - how do we incorporate it into the website
- Nancy makes a motion to support working with The Conway School, our rec would be to focus on the Land Use Chapter, green infrastructure, and land use
  - Clarification around public input
  - Clarification around cost
  - Jonah seconds
  - Unanimous vote
- Eric will come back with update on Monday

#### Priority Spreadsheet

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gaX9CrLKZlohffXINw8pPOnTt2OyMnc8/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gaX9CrLKZlohffXINw8pPOnTt2OyMnc8/view?usp=share_link)

- new hire for Carole Collins position - hear from them about their role with public engagement
- SGIC could bring experts in to talk about ideas and potential for the City, possibilities
- Eric T. - two things holding us back from development downtown
  - Code upgrades - too hard, expensive to bring buildings up to code
  - Landlord expectations
- Eric T. - zoning downtown is pretty good
- Eric T. - can CDBG funds be used for code upgrades
  - Amy C. Will look into that for 2024
- Greta had idea about a monthly Newsletter or being more active on social media

- Get Greta admin for social media
- Eric T. - we need to get our minutes up on there
  - Justin T. Can update the website, and keep people informed
- AGENDA for October: public presence
- AGENDA: Christy Moore update for SGIC
- Mayoral resistance to the creation of an Open Space Committee - both current and previous
  - Potential to be addressed by future leadership
  - Would be great to get Christy's perspective on this specifically
- Eric T. - most towns having a standing open space committee
- Eric T. - feels strongly about allowing Highland Pond to return to its natural state
- Marlo & Phil are working on potential light dredging of Highland Pond, but jury is still out on action
- AGENDA October: update from Marlo - 10 minutes, recycling
- Marlo made a motion to adjourn at 6:31 PM
- George seconded
- Unanimous vote to adjourn